



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

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Minutes for Management Committee Meeting Held Using Zoom Technology on 19 August 2022

The meeting was opened by the President, Mel Meloncelli, at 1909 hrs. The President thanked all those in attendance for their time and effort.

1. **Attendees:** The following members were in attendance:

Mel Meloncelli, Russ James, Werner Golla, Graeme Walker, Chris Fenton, Pat Deeker, Mark Reid, Iain Reynolds, Mick Payne and Brian Hatfield. John Brooker attended as a visitor to discuss Cambrai Day 2022 as well as issues relating to individual awards and Honour Boards at the School of Armour.
2. **Apologies – (Secretary)** – Russ James advised that apologies had been received from Jim Semmens, Dean Martin, Bob Kennard and Graeme Unmack.
3. **Distribution of Information:** Copies of all documents tabled and/or discussed at the Management Committee meeting were electronically distributed to all Management Committee members prior to the meeting.
4. Minutes from Previous Meeting (27 Mar 22) – outstanding issues
 - a. **Item 29/21 - Nominal Roll of the Association (Secretary)** – Next Version 1.17, 306 names, 179 to go
 - b. **Item 30/21 - Vacancies (Secretary)** – Recruitment Manager is still vacant but a volunteer has stepped up and will take up the responsibilities in the next month or so.
 - c. **Item 31/21 - Newsletter (Secretary)** – Graeme (Wol) Walker is in the process of preparing the August 2022 Newsletter. Graeme thanked those in attendance who had provided him with photos and hoped to produce the Newsletter by the end of August.
 - d. **Item 32/21 - Athletic Scholarship (Secretary)** – no applications have been received
 - e. **Item 33/21 - Audit/Review of Association Financial Accounts and Annual Statements (Secretary)** advised that the audit was conducted for \$250. Amendments required to Associations Policies and Procedures for Financial Transactions relating to EOFY Stocktakes and inclusion of depreciation rates, schedules, have been completed.
5. **Item 34/21 – Minute 13 of 2021/22 - Minutes from Previous Meeting (27 Mar 22)** – it was moved Mick Payne, seconded Pat Deeker that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
6. **Item 35/21 – Minute 14 of 2021/22 - Decisions Made via email (Secretary)** – it was moved Russ James, seconded Mark Reid that the decisions made by email for the Memberships of Matthew Sterrenberg 2 Apr 22, Jeff Madex 27 Apr 22, Karl Langhanki 3 May 22, Daryl Brain 19 May 22, Benjamin Petersen 5 Jun 27, Dave Tronerud 22 Jul 22 and Andy Rostan (14 Aug 22) be ratified. **CARRIED**
7. **Item 36/21 – Minute 15 of 2021/22 - Correspondence In and Out (Secretary)** – Emails relating to membership renewals, advice of deaths and illnesses, AGM, Proxy Forms, Port Macquarie Reunion,

Cambrai Day 22 Expressions of Interest, etc. Correspondence Out included Renewal emails and letters, Invoices, Port Macquarie Reunion, Cambrai Day 2022 arrangements, newsletters and copies of Minutes to snail mail recipients. No other significant outwards correspondence.

It was moved Russ James, seconded Werner Golla that the Correspondence Report be accepted.

CARRIED

8. Item 37/21 – Minute No 16 of 2021/22 - Membership Report (Secretary) advised:

- a. Current Membership = 485 (11 Aug 22) increase of 108 since July 2018
- b. Membership renewals 1 Feb 2022 – 213 renewal notices sent by email and snail mail. As at 11 Aug 2022, 185 members have renewed (86.9%) for periods from 1 to 5 years (average = 3.28 years). 25 members have yet to renew. Significant issues with email rejections – possible Spam issues. All members who had not renewed their membership were contacted by State Representatives.
- c. Membership – Chasing lapsed members - Secretary – continue to ring and email lapsed members with the off chance that some may renew. Two (2) recently renewed after failing to renew in 2017.

It was moved Werner Golla, seconded Iain Reynolds that the Membership Report be accepted.

CARRIED

9. Item 38/21 – Minute No 17 of 2021/22 - Treasurer’s Report (Treasurer) – presented the Financial Report (previously distributed by email) and asked for any questions. As there were no questions, it was moved Mark Reid and seconded Brian Hatfield that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

10. General Business

- a. **Item 39/21 - Reunion finalisation of Accounts - (Secretary)** – advised that the Reunion Accounts had not yet been finalised as a major refund from Rydges had not been received. The Secretary further advised that there had been a number of issues concerning alcohol at the Reunion and that the 10% discount on alcohol, included in the Contract, had not been honoured by Rydges at the Meet and Greet. He further explained that the prices charged by Rydges were not in accordance with the Price List provided by Rydges. It has now also been determined that Rydges provided non-alcoholic drinks to the value of around \$400 that had not been authorised by the Reunion Subcommittee. Mick Payne complained that they (the Port Macquarie Reunion Team) had not been advised of the financial situation concerning the payment of accounts, account balances, etc. The Secretary indicated that the Reunion Subcommittee had been kept up to date at all times with payments of reunion accounts and account balances. Judi Payne advised that Rydges indicated that the refund would be processed by Rydges Accounts around 27 August 2022. The Secretary advised that there could be a surplus of somewhere around \$2,500 to \$3,500 depending on the Rydges refund.
- b. **Item 40/21 - Cambrai Day (Secretary)** – Jon Belmonte (current member and former philanthropic representation [Salvation Army] to the Regiment) had asked for the consideration of funding for a sausage sizzle in conjunction with a Memorial Service for Cambrai Day in the Bargara or Bundaberg regions in QLD. He intended to invite the local RSL and other ESOs. There was considerable discussion, and it was generally felt, that whilst the Regiment

commemorates Cambrai Day each year, it was not appropriate to commemorate Cambrai Day in an area that would not understand the significance of the day considering that Australians were not involved in the battles of Cambrai. Brian Hatfield (Qld Representative) indicated that he would contact Jon Belmonte and discuss alternatives.

- c. The motion proposed by the Secretary to provided Jon Belmonte with a budget of \$200 was not seconded.
- d. **Item 41/21 - Cambrai Day – Adelaide 11 November 2022 Update (John Brooker)** - all aware of invitation extended by the Regiment. EOI resulted in 65+ to attend the March on 11 Nov 22, 77 interested in Meet and Greet on Thursday 10 Nov 22, and 84 interested in Recovery Brunch/Lunch on 12 Nov 2022. Emails still being received on a regular basis indicating further members (and non-members) wanting to attend. The Meet and Greet and Recovery Brunch/Lunch are to be held at the Mawson Lakes Hotel. \$500 deposit has been paid. The Secretary has completed the Booking Form and copies were distributed to President, Treasurer and SA Rep. John Brooker would continue to provide regular updates to the Secretary, Treasurer and SA Representative.
- e. **Item 42/21 – Minute 18 of 2021/22 - Cambrai Day (President)** – the offer to March with the Regiment on Cambrai day provided a significant marketing opportunity as well as a major opening to promote the Association and increase recruitment of new members. All 1AR veterans to be invited to M&G and Recovery Brunch/Lunch to foster membership. Depending on decisions made today, the Secretary expects a charge of \$20 per head for the M&G and Lunch with perhaps an additional \$5 for non-members. Attendance - it has also been suggested that the CO, RSM and a number of officers, SNCO and soldiers be invited to attend at no cost. I would like to move a motion that the Association supports each function with the expenditure of \$1,000 for food and that all monies collected (Invoiced) for both functions be used for the supply of alcohol.

MOTION – it was moved Mel Meloncelli, seconded Mark Reid that a budget of \$1,000 be approved for each of the two events to be held at the Mawson Lakes Hotel on Thursday 10 November and Saturday 12 November 2022. **CARRIED**

- f. **Item 43/21 – Minute 19 of 2021/22 - Establishment of Cambrai Day Adelaide 2022 Subcommittee (President)** – as with any significant event, it is important that a subcommittee be appointed to coordinate the planning and administrative effort required to ensure the best possible outcomes. I propose that a Subcommittee be appointed, and the following members be appointed to that Subcommittee - John Brooker, Mark Reid, Werner Golla and Russ James be appointed as the Cambrai Day Adelaide 2022. The Subcommittee is expected to report to the Management Committee on a regular basis.

MOTION – it was moved Mel Meloncelli, seconded Mick Payne that a Subcommittee be formed for the Cambrai Day events in Adelaide in November 2022 and that Mark Reid, John Brooker, Werner Golla and Russ James be appointed to the Subcommittee. **CARRIED**

- g. **Item No 44/21 – Minute No 20 of 2021/22 - Awards at the School of Armour and Honour Boards (Secretary)** – the School has recently undertaken an audit of awards, prizes, Honour Boards, etc at the School and wishes to move to a formal arrangement so that some of these may be written in stone. There was some discussion raised at the AGM (by Tony Crook) as to the current situation of awards presented at the School. The presentations had lapsed over the past two (2) years due to Covid. It is proposed that the Association provide individual

prizes/awards (which are to be inscribed) for ROBC Tank, Subj 4 Crew Commander (Tank) and Tank Gunnery courses. The School of Armour has also requested that the Association consider donating 'Honour Boards' for the same three courses and these are to be backdated to 2007. Currently Investigating costs. After considerable discussion it was moved Mel Meloncelli that the Association continue to support individual awards for Students of Merit for the ROBC Tank, Subj 4 Crew Comd (Tank) and Tank Gunnery courses for an amount not to exceed \$400 per annum. Seconded Pat Deeker. **CARRIED**

- h. **Item No 45/21 – Honour Boards at the School of Armour (Secretary)** – the Secretary advised that the School was looking for Honour Boards for ROBC, Subject 4 Gunnery (Tank) and Tank Gunnery courses. The School had records back to 2007 and the School would like the boards to be donated and inscribed with Students of Merit back to 2007. After considerable discussion concerning alternatives and costs of Honour Boards, it was agreed that further investigation concerning production, lettering and associated costs be undertaken. It was stated, categorically, that any Honour Boards provided by the Association, must include appropriate wording that the Boards were donated by the 1st Armoured Regiment Association. Russ James and John Brooker to investigate.
- i. **Item No 46/21 – Minute No 21 of 2021/22 - Use of Health/Welfare funds (Secretary)** – advised that the Health/Welfare Account currently has a balance of \$1,276. The money was provided by the RAAC Corporation from DVA funds disbursed for health and welfare purposes. Despite our efforts we have not managed to identify those members with any special needs. At the last meeting Jim Semmens proposed that we provide funding to the Vietnam Veterans Association in Tasmania. Discussions with Malcolm Cash of VVAA Tasmania indicates that we – that is the Association – have approximately 10 or so members in Tasmania who use the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bush Retreat. As identified by Bobby Imlach, this Retreat needs a First Aid Kit to replace the 30-year-old wall mounted kit. The Retreat is in a relatively remote location and therefore a good first aid kit is required. I would like to move a motion that \$400 be provided to the Tasmanian Retreat for the purchase of a first aid kit and other medical supplies. Seconded Mick Payne. **CARRIED**
- j. **Item No 47/21 - Banners for Sqns (Vice President)** – in the absence of the Vice President, the Secretary explained that individual banners for each Squadron be obtained for use at official Association functions and/or functions arranged by Squadrons. There was considerable discussion concerning the size of the banners, colours and squadron emblems to be used. It was agreed that further investigations be conducted and that agreement should be reached on the style, size, colours and emblems to be used.
- k. **Item 48/21 – Minute No 22 of 2021/22 - Website (Secretary)** – our Communications Manager (Bob Kennard) has spent considerable time and effort in reorganising the look of the Website and generally tidying things up. Committee members are encouraged to review and provide comments. It was moved Russ James, seconded Mark Reid that Bob Kennard be thanked for his efforts. **CARRIED**

There was some further discussion concerning the provision of Squadron pages on the website so that Squadron members could post messages, items of interest, etc. It was generally agreed that this would be difficult to achieve as the Association did not want to go down the path of having a Forum where messages and other items could be added without adequate controls. Further investigations are required by John Brooker and Bob Kennard to determine

how moderated squadron pages could be provided.

- l. **Item 49/21 - Credit Card (Secretary)** – advised that Xero (the accounting package) has a link with a Credit Card Facility (Stripe). Initial investigations reveal that each transaction costs 1.75% of the total value of the transaction plus 30c for each transaction. A membership renewal, paid by credit card, would cost the Association \$1.96. Discussion revealed that the Association had previously had an account with Strip and the facility was used so that Association members could use their credit cards to purchase items from the Q Store. It was believed that this was discontinued around 2015/16. The Secretary advised that additional research was required to determine any additional setup costs as well as possible costs for integration with Xero.

- m. **Item 50/21 – Reunion Wrap Up (President)** – indicated that he thought most attendees had a ball at the reunion. This was reflected in the numbers of attendees arriving early at each of the functions. The President thanked Mick and Judi Payne, and all other members of the Reunion Subcommittee for their efforts. He also congratulated Dean Martin on his efforts as the Master of Ceremonies for the Meet and Greet and Reunion Dinner. His was an excellent performance.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 2042 hours with a thanks to all in attendance.

Russ James

R.F. James
Secretary

Annex A – Treasurer’s Report

Profit and Loss

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc

For the period 27 February 2022 to 16 August 2022

Account	27 Feb-16 Aug 2022
Trading Income	
Interest Income	75.68
Membership Income	540.55
Merchandise Sales	3,034.94
Total Trading Income	3,651.17
Cost of Sales	
Purchases	2,653.54
Total Cost of Sales	2,653.54
Gross Profit	
	997.63
Other Income	
Donations Received	1,031.30
Donations Received - Reunion	364.00
Fundraising Proceeds	133.00
Stock Adjustment - Increase	55.85
Total Other Income	1,584.15
Operating Expenses	
Bank Fees	16.10
Communications	273.79
Consulting & Accounting	324.00
Depreciation	190.18
Donations Paid by the Association	72.00
Event Outlays	1,804.50
Flowers/Wreaths/Donations in Lieu	315.00
Health and Safety	16.96
Legal expenses	60.10
Office Expenses	5.40
Postage	31.87
Presentations/Prizes 1st Armoured Regiment	194.30
Printing & Stationery	480.95
Provision - Member Services	20.00
RAAC Corp Fees	41.67
Repairs and Maintenance - Centurion	92.71
Stock Write Off	49.09
Total Operating Expenses	3,988.62
Net Profit	(1,406.84)